Greenwich Village Block Associations News

An Occasional Publication from the Greenwich Village Block Associations & An Open Community Forum

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 2 — SUMMER, 2002

Members: Bedford, Barrow, Commerce - Bedford, Downing - Bleecker Area Merchants & Residents - Carmine Street - Central Village - Charles Street - Christopher Street Block & Merchants - Christopher Street East - East 8th/9th Street - East 10th Street - East 11th Street - East 12th/13th Street - Eighth Street - Far West Bank Street - Far West 10th Street - Grove Street - Horatio Street - Jane Street - MacDougal Alley - MacDougal Street North - Mercer Street - Minetta - Morton Street - Mulry Angle/West 11th Street - New West 4th Street - Perry Street - Sheridan Square- Upper West 13th Street - Washington Place - Washington Square/Lower Fifth Avenue - Waverly -Waverly Bank Neighbors - West 9th Street - West 10th Street

PROSTITUTION & UNRULY STREET BEHAVIOR TASK FORCE by David Poster

When Times Square was cleaned up, porn shops, prostitutes and drug dealers migrated south and opened up shop in the Village ("Times Square South"). We have about a dozen porn shops and dozens of street prostitutes loitering on Village streets, doorsteps, and in apartment lobbies. Streets are strewn with used condoms, crack vials, and human feces. Visitors come with an "anything goes" attitude and no respect for the community. Residents are targets of verbal and physical abuse. The 6th Precinct has been shorthanded; until recently elected officials showed little concern; Community Board 2 has made no difference.

Due to calls from residents frustrated by the lack of response to their cries for help, the GVBA created a task force last November to research problems associated with street prostitution and unruly street behavior and to look for ways to ease the problem. We put together a group of Villagers who witnessed the deterioration of their neighborhood and identified 5 objectives:

- Increase police presence.
- Educate residents about issues.

(Cont'd. on page 6)

FREE MAGNETS

1-888-5433(LIFE

The GVBA is giving away **free** "Quality of Life" HOTLINE refrigerator magnets. GVBA Task Force member **Cory Henke**l worked with designer, **Terry Roche**, of TR Graphics who designed the magnets pro bono. Call this number to complain about noise, noxious odors, rowdy behavior, etc. Calls are recorded by Compstat, the city's crime fighting program, which includes tracking even minor offenses that can have a major impact on the "quality of life". Compstat helps to determine how many officers are assigned to the 6th Precinct. You can get your magnet from a member block association, local business, the 6th Precinct or by sending a stamped (57 cents), self addressed envelope to the GVBA (address on back). Along with the magnet, you will receive an information sheet; when to use this number and when to use 911. The squeakiest wheel gets the most grease! **Make those calls!**

Memory Lane

Congratulations to **FEDORA** who celebrates 50 years in business this June!

Colt perfected the revolver in the Old NYU Building on Washington Square East.

U.S. Grant had a pew for 7 years in the old Metropolitan Temple at the corner of Seventh Avenue and 13th Street.

Delamater Iron Works (13th Street near the Hudson River) made the engines for the iron clad warship, the **Monitor**, designed by **John Ericsson**. Built in 100 working days, the Monitor defeated the Confederate warship, the **Merrimac,** at Hampton Roads, Virginia in 1862 with Delamater men manning the engines. Ericsson, the father of modern marine engineering, built his screw propellers at Delamater, designed the 1st steam fire engines here, the 1st air compressor, and a torpedo boat, the parent of the present day destroyer. The 1st submarine torpedo boat was built here in 1881 under the direction of **J.P. Holland**, for whom the Holland Tunnel is named.

(Cont'd. on page 4)

We thank our good neighbors for underwriting publication costs. On their behalf, we wish you a healthy, happy Summer!

White Horse Tavern " Established Since 1880" , Corner of Hudson & 11th Street, NYC 10014, 989-3956, 243-9260

T-H-R-E-E L-I-V-E-S & C-O-M-P-A-N-Y BOOKSELLERS

Three Lives & Company, *Booksellers* "Since 1978" - 154 West 10th Street, NYC 10014 (corner of Waverly Place and 10th Street), tel. 741-2069, fax 741-2073 - www.threelives.com

LifeThyme — New York's Finest Complete Natural Market

410 Avenue of the Americas, NYC 10011, (between 8th & 9th Streets) 420-9099 " FREE LOCAL DELIVERY! All organic produce & organic juice bar! Vegan Bakery & Organic Salad Bar

GEMINI SALON & SPA

547 Hudson Street, NYC 10014 675-4546 COMPLETE BEAUTY CARE: Specializing in hair coloring & extensions...Teeth whitening by a certified dentist is also available - OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK!

Villa Mosconi Restaurant — In the heart of Greenwich Village

69 MacDougal Street, NYC 10012 - 674-0320, 473-9804,673-0390 - "26 years in business" - featuring a variety of homemade pastas, available for parties, lovely garden room - Villa Mosconi recommended by Gourmet Magazine, Zagats, and Crain's NY

Businesses which support community efforts deserve comunity support!

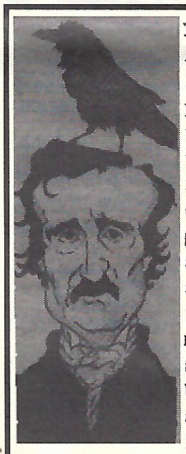
The GVBA adopts positions concerning issues of community concern. The GVBA

opposes approval of a liquor license at 61 Fifth Avenue for a restaurant to include a roof top terrace. This was the site of the notorious Mr. Fuji restaurant which was closed down due to drug problems and shootings.

requested Councilmember Quinn, whose office has provided funding, to review plans to reconfigure Abingdon Square Park. Hearings held by Community Board 2 were not well publicized and held in inconvenient locations. Citizens in the park area may not be informed, and a consensus of opinion has not been determined.

asked Mayor Bloomberg to reconsider proposed cuts, which would result in the closing of two Senior Centers at West 12th Street and at Greenwich House. We believe that it is essential to keep these centers open.

formally requested NYPD Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly to assign additional police officers to the 6th Precinct. (The 6th Precinct received 23 additional officers.)



DEATH OF A POET - Edgar A. Poe, whose writings, both prose and poetical, have attracted marked attention in this country, is numbered with the dead. He possessed genius of a peculiar and striking order, and had he not, like too many other gifted men, yielded to the snare of intemperance, he might have trodden a luminous pathway to immortality. Quite recently he appears to have renounced the enemy of his peace and usefulness, and was received as a member of a Division of the Sons of Temperance in Virginia. His friends and admirers were indulging the most favorable anticipations from this change in his course. when he again yielded, broke his pledge, and died of mania a petu in the Baltimore hospital. An awful warning comes up from the grave of this unhappy, self-ruined man. Would that it might make its due impression - Think of Poe's miserable end, and then resolve to touch not the cup that poisoned him. When tempted to break your pledge, point to that grave and answer, No, never!

from The New York Organ

The following letter is being published at the request of Councilmember Christine Quinn.

Dear Neighbor:

I am writing with a quick update regarding my work surrounding quality of life issues in Greenwich Village and the procurement of additional resources for the 6th police precinct, which covers the Village. For sometime now, I have been working on a multi-pronged approach to deal with these problems. This includes working with the police, social service agencies, and other government agencies (i.e. Department of Transportation, Parks Department, etc.).

In January, I organized a meeting with some of NYPD's top uniformed officers, other area elected officials, and community representatives. This meeting was intended as an opportunity to request additional officers assigned to the 6th Precinct. Soon after the meeting, the 6th Precinct was given 6 additional officers and one more Sargeant. Not long after that, they received, once again, six more officers and another Sargent. However, during the meeting, I also made a specific request that the 6th Precinct receive additional new officers from the next training class to graduate. As you have probably read in the news, a new class of police officers graduated from the academy this week. I am pleased to report that **the 6th Precinct will be receiving 23 officers from this class**.

While we are all pleased with this good news, I will continue to work to address quality of life problems in the Village. If you would like to be added to my quality of life email update list, please email m03mirow@council.nyc.ny.us with "Quality of Life List" in the subject line and your name, address, and telephone number in the body of the email. Thank you.

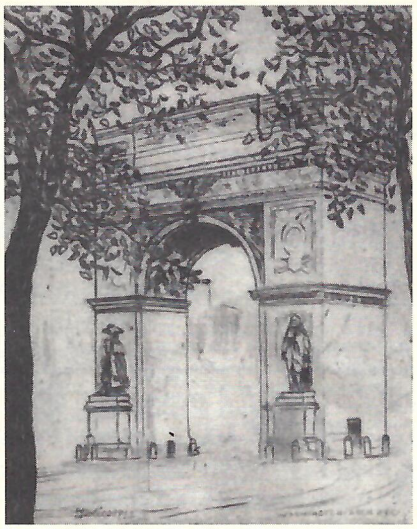
Village Alert - PATHology

by Margery Reifler

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PATH) intends to begin construction of new, two-stairway entrances to both the Christopher and 9th Street PATH stations as early as July 1, 2002. As planned, they will be located at Christopher and Waverly (across from the Northern Dispensary) and just east of the corner of Bedford and Christopher Streets, near Lilac Chocolates. The sidewalk there would be widened to accommodate the staircase, and the street narrowed. The new station entrances will not be handicapped accessible.

PATH's main justification for the additional entrances is security and evacuation in the event of an emergency (the stations have one exit only). PATH's plans were presented to the community and elected officials with no prior community consultations. As a bi-state authority, PATH is exempt from most of the City and State laws and regulations (landmarks, land use, environmental, buildings, etc) that would govern excavation and construction in our historic district.

(Cont'd. on page 5)



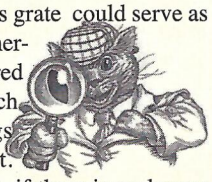
Etching by Leon Dolice - 1922

Tree Update

by Sharon Woolums (Chair)
Washington Square Environmental Committee

In place of the unanimous decision of Community Board 2 (installing 2 monitoring wells to test watertable levels during construction of the NYU School of Law building), NYU intends to spend $10,000 treating the trees, deep feeding, aeration, etc. Extra care is needed, but isn't this a normal task of the Parks Department? Mr. Kenney from Bartlett, NYU's tree service, assures us that a watertable has nothing to do with the trees' health. Other reputable sources claim that artificially lowering water tables changes soil composition, affects plants, causes streams to dry up, etc. We hope Minetta Brook has not dried up from the Kimmel [NYU's student center) dig as it is important to the trees' health.

In *The Power of Water (New York Times, May* 2, 1999), **Lynn Ernann** claims that Minetta Brook is visible as a hole in the ground filled with murky, slow-moving water under a grate in the basement of NYU's old Law School Building, Vanderbilt Hall. Since we are denied monitoring wells, observing this grate could serve as a poor substitute for deciphering what may have occurred to our brook. The geo-tech reports for both buildings may also provide insight. However bad for the trees, if there is no longer this slowly moving water, perhaps Minetta will no longer be a flooding problem in Village basements. If pumping caused the brook to dry up, obviously new pumping will create additional problems for the park's trees..



One major flaw in the Parks Department's refusal to install monitoring wells is that nobody knows where the watertable actually is in the park. All measurements were taken at the two building sites across the street. The wells would tell us whether a lowered watertable was the reason for the fallen American Elm, the Horse Chest-

(Cont'd. on page 5)

Conceptual Plan for Far West Village

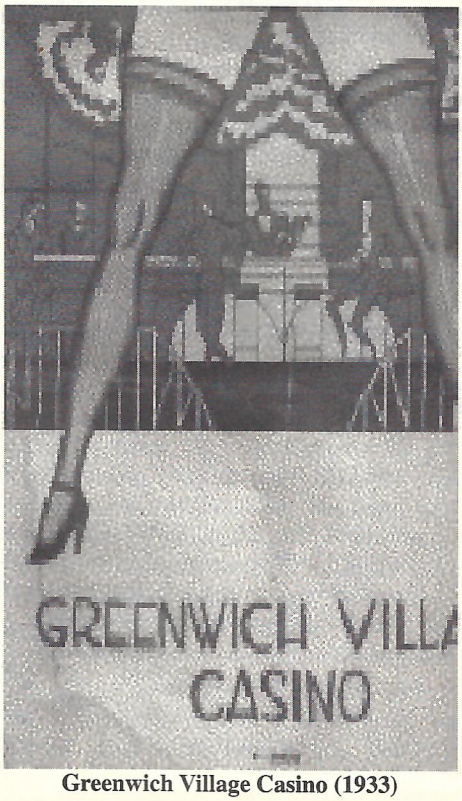
by David Gruber (Carmine Street Block Assn.)

The City Planning commission has presented its long awaited plan for the Far West Village, which roughly includes the area from 14th Street to Canal Street, west of Hudson Street to the River. The plan, anxiously awaited by many in the community, tries to balance the pressure for residential development with the need to keep established businesses and new additions viable in the ever-shrinking manufacturing districts in Manhattan.

If was shown for the first time at the March CB2 zoning committee meeting. The CPC used a zoning overlay concept that would allow housing in the area that is feeling the most pressure for residential construction (the area south of the Gansevoort market), but it keeps the manufacturing zoning district intact. Other areas were kept wholly manufacturing, while in the area south of Houston, in the Hudson Square district, housing would also be allowed.

The Plan is by no means a finished product and is being shown to community groups, developers, and other interested parties for reactions and comments. There are fears that businesses vital to the downtown economy will be pushed aside in this frenzied housing market . Many believe that rampart residential development, without additional sewers, schools and open space will have an adverse effect on the pockets of already existing middle-income homes. Housing, like the Mitchell Lama West Village Houses, may be jeopardized as the demand for luxury high-rise towers increases.

In recent years many groups have faced off with the little known, but powerful, Board of Standards and Appeals, which can set aside zoning regulations in hardship cases. The BSA has allowed several residential projects to invade the manufacturing zone and is changing the face of this part of the Village. The new CPC plan may become an all-important tool to give some direction and structure to this community and end the random, piece meal development that is now the norm.



Greenwich Village Casino (1933)

Alice Certainly Doesn't Live Here

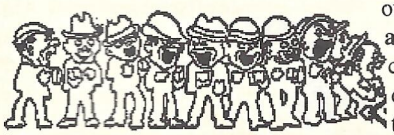
by Wendy Dixon

If you missed the Mad Hatter's tea party, you should have attended the February 12 "Quality of Life" Forum held by Community Board 2 at St. Vincent's Hospital. With a view towards addressing "quality of life" problems besetting Villagers in search of quiet in their homes and safety on the streets, NYPD police brass, including reappointed **Commissioner Raymond Kelly** turned out to discuss issues with community residents. Prior to the "standing room and not enough of that" event, a nasty flyer from a Chelsea group called FIERCE urged the youth who commandeer Village corners, to show up, opining that homophobic, racist Grinches were rising up to halt the good times. Villagers facing vicious drug dealers and hostile transgender prostitutes, may have not put these late night tourists tops on the agenda, but the "kids" came early, grabbed seats, and demanded attention.

Villagers, who hadn't "seen the scene", saw what their neighbors have been enduring for years... **and** the kids were on their "best" behavior. Were these young folks ferried to St. Vincent's by taxpayer funded social service providers, which are supposed to offer alternatives to a disruptive, dead end life style? Carrying "in your face" signs, asserting their right to take over Village streets, they demanded jobs (without specifying skills) and..... **more** social services. They were making these demands of the NYPD, which, responded patiently ...no answers, because this isn't their job.

Representatives of the rowdies were invited to sit on the dais. From this vantage point, they assailed the Commissioner and NYPD reps. Residents, who outnumbered the kids by about 4 to 1, spoke out...they were outraged that residents from elsewhere were causing so much trouble in the Village and assuming that they had the right to do it. And it wasn't just wealthy newcomers talking (as intimated in a March 30 *New York Times* piece). Villagers of all incomes, renters and owners, many who have lived in the Village for years, were tired of having themselves and their community abused. (Virtually, all Village crime is committed by people who don't live here.) Rowdy street behavior may not be criminal, but it sends a destructive invitation to drug dealers, and other criminals...the "broken window of civility".

What was lost in the clamor was an inescapable fact. All these kids hanging out on our streets isn't good for residents, for business, **and** it isn't good for the kids. When they were coming - mainly from New Jersey - by the hundreds and "doing what they do" on the piers, tolerant Villagers didn't say much. The piers are closed now; they keep coming and "doing what they do" on the streets. Many are Jersey City residents; their own community has a curfew, which means that they can't go home until morning. The kids were making demands in the **wrong state.**



CB2 threw a "wild pitch" when it sponsored this event; it could have hit anywhere and anything. If the GVBA and other groups had not flyered the neighborhood and urged residents to attend, the "street kids" would have taken over and sent the wrong signal to the NYPD. The auditorium was packed; it was confrontational, it was unpredictable, and it was dangerous. As a result, St. Vincent's Hospital no longer allows CB2 the use of its auditorium. And the event effectively ended whatever sympathy there may have been in the Village for the plight of a bunch of kids who, in many respects, are their own worst enemy. All in all, it was a night "never to forget" even for those of us who wish it had never happened.

Folk legend and longtime Villager **Dave Van Ronk**, who was born in Brooklyn on June 30th,1936, died on February 10th, 2002, leaving a legacy of good music, warm fellowship, and gentle humor. Speakers at his memorial service on March, 2002 at the Judson Memorial Church included **Tom Paxton, Odetta**, and **Oscar Brand**. He will be missed by those who knew him and remembered by all who hear his songs.

"A MOOSE IS WHAT I WANT TO BE..."
drawing by Dave Van Ronk

Greenwich Village Tells the World How to Dress

Artists and Craftsmen (Mostly Craftswomen) Hold Their First Annual Show in Campaign to Divert a Hitherto Unenlightened Public to Batik, Tie-and-Dyed and Painted-Toy Schools of Costume Design

Greenwich Village, long celebrated as the sanctuary of free speech and free spirits, has now yielded the very latest designs in women's dress. Under the patronage of **Kate Seabrook**, the Village designers, weavers, and modistes recently lifted the bushel measure from their shining light and put the world wise to the real thing in wearing apparel.

Mrs. Seabrook is the owner and operator of a coffee house in Waverley Place, New York. Not everybody knows where it is, for no sign is out and no effort to bring in a general patronage has ever been made... a place where the bobbed haired intelligentsia of Washington Square may invite their souls, roast chestnuts and debate the difference between mutation and evolution.

Not long ago the girls in the Village decided they were tired of being sartorially misrepresented in the Philistine world. It was the impression north of 14th Street, out in the wilds of Iowa, and the steppes of Georgia that a Greenwich Village lady was all dressed up for anything from a grand bal or to a shower bath when she was wearing a pair of horn rimmed spectacles, a calico smock, and a set of sandals.

So the dessmakers decided they would put on a show. And it was only natural that "156" should be the theatre of their sartorial parade. Plans were laid, **Tony Sarg** of marionette fame, and **Ethel Plummer** drew posters. **Achmed Abdullah**, novelist and playwright, volunteered as stage director, and **Sybilla Lamont** supervised the details. **Mrs. Antonio de Sanchez** served cigarettes....The cognoscenti of Sheridan Square were jostled a bit by slicked-up Philistines from uptown and out of town, but on the whole, it was a great party from first to last.

Each model did a slow patrol up and down the length of the room while the spectators lounged at their ease on all sides, drank coffee and smoked. Sometimes beautiful batiked silks were draped carelessly over the sylphs and when the patrol pirouetted, the silks floated aft. At such times the male spectators forgot to lounge at ease.... **Bobby Edwards** twanged a ukulele to the words of "The Sultan's Wives Have Got the Hives" and "Down in Greenwich Village Where the Old Maids Go for Thrillage" or **Aleta Crump** did chansos, chocolate choruses, and chastouschki (Russian folk songs)

The gowns, wraps, and lingerie managed to be startling and practical at the same time....Generally speaking - though generalities are dangerous when you are talking about the Village - the styles in frocks ran to modest shortness of skirt, long and voluminous sleeves and simple lines. Dresses for the most part, were in one piece and negligees were slashed to the hip..... Undergarment novelties included black velvet trimmed gingham step-ins and a cheery colored georgette chemise.

Style exhibits were no confined to clothes. Ther was a girl named **Tarzann** of the Greenwich Villag Follies, who showed the la dies what they might d when it was necessary fo their knees to be bare Tarzanne was wearing bathing suit cut low above the waist and high below.

In fairness, it should be stated that her legs ...needed no adornment. But for the benefit of those not so well satisfied with unrelieved nature, she exhibited on her legs a black line drawing. When her knees were pressed together, the audience saw the portrait of a man. His right eye was mounted directly on top of her right patella and, by manipulating her knee muscles in a way that wasn't explained, she would wickedly wink this right eye.

Anna May Cliff of Madame Frances' Hildred of Lucille's, and **Alden Gay** of Tappes's showed how effectively the Village clothes should be worn just as they are used to showing Mrs. Fifth Avenue how she might look if Mrs. Fifth Avenue looked like Anna May Cliff et al. The exhibitors included a number of such typically Village institutions as Ann's Shop, Billies Personality Shoppe, Kraftwove, Reiss Studios, the Treasure Box, and the Village Weavers. The show will be a semiannual event for the Village thinks it has a mission in the world. *(from the Portland Oregonian, July 9, 1922)*

Memories (Cont'd from page 1)

England's **Edward VII**, stopped at the Hotel Brevoort at Fifth Avenue and 8th Street, when he was Prince of Wales.

Abraham Lincoln's address at the Cooper Union is credited with giving him the Republican Presidential nomination.

Jennie Jerome, the mother of **Winston Churchill,** attended the school which once stood at One Fifth Avenue.

Lafayette once visited Public School 3 at the corner of Hudson and Grove Street.

Charles Lindbergh's prize for his famous flight was given by **Raymond Orteig**, manager of the Brevoort Hotel and later of the Hotel Lafayette, located at University Place at 9th Street.

Pres. James Monroe spent his last year in the Village, living with his daughter **Mrs. Samuel L. Gouverneur** at 63 Prince Street near the corner of Crosby, He died on July 4, 1831 and was buried from this home.

Clemenceau, the Tiger of France, lived at 212 W. 12th Street with his American wife and practiced medicine.

Thomas Edison introduced electric lighting at 65 Fifth Avenue.

How Does Your Garden Grow?

The Jefferson Market Garden is expanding its corps of gatekeepers in order to extend open hours. They are seeking volunteers, willing to commit two hours each week from May to October, to sit at the Garden gate, welcome visitors, receive donations, and hand out garden literature. The key requirement is "friendliness". The benefit for volunteers? Two hours outside in fine weather in one of the prettiest spots in the city. The Jefferson Market Garden - on Greenwich Avenue between 9th and 10th Streets - is open daily except Monday, weather permitting. If you would like to volunteer as a regular or as an alternate gatekeeper, contact the Director of Volunteers, **Sheila Puccia**, at 929-9175. Please call between 10:00am and 1:00pm.

The GVBA will be installing commemorative plaques on behalf of the residents of the Village for the men from Ladder 5, Engine 24 & Battalion 2 and for the firefighters from Squad 18 who were lost on September 11th . We hope to complete the first plaque by summer's end. Meanwhile, we welcome the men of NYFD Squad 18 back home to West 10th Street.

Washington Square Trees (Cont'd. from page 2)

nut & other trees' demise and give information to help determine what kind of replacement trees are needed. There is a gaping hole in place of the lost American Elm. An

equally large tree must be planted there, if the shadows created by the new building allow it. NYU's $10,000 contribution could help restore trees pruned to the trunk. The scary part is that dewatering will begin now in the midst of a drought, pumping 1.2 tons of water every 3 minutes, lowering the water table to bedrock for 5 months. The Parks Department may be grateful for the $200,000 NYU donates to the park (plus the $10,000 extra for the tree treatments). But $10,000 is a paltry sum compared to the cost of replacing just 1 tree. Because the interdependency between air, water and earth is complex, the WSEC has called for an independent study and believes that test wells (suggested by the Langan Engineering Company, hired by NYU) could provide an important piece to the puzzle. Monitoring wells could get to the bottom of the Minetta mystery.

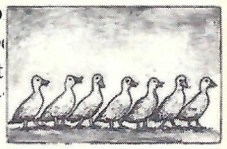
As for a park conservancy, the WSEC believes that any talk by any means about aiding our distressed Washington Sq. Park is great. However, in the January 29 Conservancy meeting, the distressed trees were unmentioned. That the Parks Department would discuss future possible care for the park, but blatantly ignore and refute the immediate concerns of CB2's unanimous resolution; (a simple request to put 2 monitoring wells in the park), is disappointing. A conservancy could work well depending on its structure and the membership's dedication devoid of politics, (i.e. some fear one party assuming control of the Board of Directors). Also there is concern that the conservancy should be considered only after the park restoration to insure that the conservancy be set up to maintain the park as stewards rather than defacto park owners. That could lead to private use problems, which have resulted from conservancy governance of other city parks. For sure, much money needs to be raised to replace our fallen trees.

"I care not how men trace their ancestry,
To ape or Adam: let them please their whim;
But I in June am midway to believe
A tree among my fair progenitors.
Such sympathy is mine with all the race,
Such mutual recognition vaguely sweet
There is between us - surely there are times
When they consent to own me of their kin,
And condescend to me, and call me cousin."

James Russell Lowell

PATHology (Cont'd. from page 2)

The GVBA opposes rushing into construction of this yet unexamined plan. We urge PATH to divulge its studies and justifications for the location and size of the entrances. Why weren't alternative plans fo emergency exits only (like the escap hatches in the subway) chosen, t lessen the impact on the community



What are our concerns?

- Potential damage to nearby historic buildings over 100-150 years old.
- Street and sidewalk congestion during construction (when the 9th Street bus will be rerouted) and then, vehicular traffic on Christopher Street after it is permanently narrowed.
- Economic impact on nearby businesses, most of which are traditional, small businesses.
- An increase in "quality of life" incidents when two more entrances are opened and become attractive areas for groups to congregate.

What can you do?

Join those of us opposed to the immediate commencement of construction without consideration of all these issues by writing or E-mailing Gov. Pataki and PATH Chairman Sinagra:

Gov.George Pataki, The Executive Chamber, The Capital, Albany, NY 12223 - E-mail:gov.pataki@chamber.state,ny.us

Chairman Jack Sinagra, The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, 225 Park Ave. South -18th Floor, NY, NY 10003. Attend the third Community Board 2 hearing on this proposal: **Wednesday, May 22nd** at **6:00pm** at the **Manhattan Development Center (75 Morton Street - just west of Hudson Street)** Watch for the future website of the group organizing to represent our interests - the **Christopher Street Preservation Alliance**. To support this effort, send a tax deductible contribution to the BBC Block Association, c/o Reifler, 2 Grove Street,New York, NY 10014.

What's A Doughboy to Do? by Marilyn Dorato

In the 18th century, Abingdon Square was owned by **Sir Peter Warren's** daughter, wife of the Earl of Abingdon, who sympathized with the Americans in the Revolution; the square kept its British name when others were removed from New York sites. In the 1830's, an iron fence was added. In the 1880's Calvert Vaux, the architect of the Jefferson Market Courthouse, designed the small enclave to give public access. The Doughboy, a World War I memorial, was bought by Village donations and installed in 1921 by **Gov. Alfred E. Smith,** who made his tribute before 20,000 people.

Now that quiet oasis is a hotbed. Some people want to redesign the park, cut openings in the fence, and move the statue near the busy intersection of Bleecker and Hudson; some people want to restore the park, preserve the trees, and install a new surface. **George Vellonakis**, who redesigned City Hall Park, has created one design, no alternatives. $760,000 has been allocated by **Councilmember Christine Quinn** for this purpose: $25,000 moves the Doughboy. What residents think is unclear, because Community Board 2 failed to properly publicize the meetings on the issue and held these discussions in inconvenient locations. Ironically, a posted public hearing was held regarding the Bleecker Park seating area; no money is available for improvements to this park.

The NYC Landmarks Commission is considering the proposed park changes. The

Landmarks Committee of CB2 had passed a resolution calling for the Doughboy to stay put, but face South, and for maintaining the curve of the ancient fence. At the Full Board Meeting, **Committee Chair Sean Sweeney**, countering his own committee, accepted a "friendly amendment" by Jane Street's **Jo Hamilton** to drop the reference to the statue and another "friendly amendment" by Hudson Square's **David Reck** to drop the protection for the fence, effectively gutting the resolution. However you may feel about the proposed park design, CB2 does not seem to care.

In an effort to bring harmony, Councilmember Quinn held a public meeting on April 30th. Although there was some acrimony and a lot of attitude, a compromise seems possible, because each side has compatible priorities. The pro-plan advocates are primarily concerned with greening the park, and the anti-plan side is chiefly concerned with keeping the statue in place (possibly turning it around) and maintaining the integrity of the fence. These aims could be coordinated in a few plan tweaks.

There is a proposed grassy center which may be problematic due to future use and maintenance issues; the intent is to allow people to walk on and lie on the grass. With the Parks' department budget continually under attack, it may be an amenity impossible to maintain. What will the grass look like in five years? Will there be grass? This is an improvement project that can happily happen with some open discussion, a little cooperation, and a touch of community spirit. For now, that pained look on the Doughboy's face is shared by many Villagers.

Task Force (Cont'd from page1)

- Reach out to legislators and judges for their support in dealing seriously with "quality of life" violators and repeat offenders.
- Evaluate community outreach programs, which often contribute to the problems.
- Eliminate or relocate porn shops.

We identified measures to accomplish these objectives, including obtaining additional police support. We wrote to **Commissioner Raymond Kelly** requesting more uniformed police. (This request was emphasized at each meeting the task force had with the Police). **It was gratifying that on March 27 the 6th Precinct received 23 new police officers. This is a great community victory !**

We established a good working relationship with the 6th Precinct and with our elected officials. We met with **Dep. Inspector Fitzgerald** and his staff to share ideas and offer assistance. We attended a meeting with NYPD chiefs, a meeting with the DA's office, and another with the Port Authority Police, all sponsored by **Councilmember Christine Quinn**. A task force member has spoken at each 6th Precinct Community Council meeting since January.

We are working to bring public attention to the plight of Villagers; the media is covering Village problems. Interviews with task force members have resulted in articles in the *New York Times*, the *Boston Globe*, and *The Villager*. *NBC Late Night News* covered our concerns, specifically mentioning the GVBA Task Force. The Village dilemma was even noted in *Vanity Fair*.

We were instrumental in sending a strong community delegation to the February 12 Community Board 2 Forum on "quality of life" by distributing flyers alerting residents to the forum. These flyers apparently made a big difference; community attendance was strong. We have designed communication vehicles to educate the community about the Quality of Life Hotline magnets, which look great. *(See Page One)*

We are examining laws, which could curtail the prostitution and unruly street behaviors exhibited by many visitors. Current laws on prostitution, drug dealing etc. are weak, especially for repeat offenders, who face no serious penalty, if they continue as violators. We are writing to State Senators and Assemblymembers on the Judiciary Committee for support in changing or creating laws to improve the situation.

We are reaching out to the gay and lesbian community to locate an organization that can help the trans-gender and homosexual youths, who claim they have no place but the streets to "do their business". Gay and lesbian leaders have been invited to address the task force. Van and street outreach programs will be evaluated to determine whether or not they exacerbate the problem. We intend to measure distances to determine the proximity of the porn shops to our schools and churches. The task force has contacted the DA's office to explore avenues of redress. Efforts will continue to find ways to close down these establishments and/or to relocate them .

How can you help? Support the Quality of Life Hotline project! Commissioner Kelly plans to use the Compstat program to track "quality of life" complaints. Based on these statistics, the NYPD can deploy manpower where it is needed. If we show that more manpower is needed in the Village, we hope that we will be given that help. The GVBA is grateful for the hard work and dedication of this task force, which has a "full plate" before it; the task force is grateful that the GVBA provides an opportunity to improve the "quality of life" in Greenwich Village. We have accomplished a lot in a brief period of time and will continue trying to make a difference.

Need extra help for your spring beautification projects??????

It's there for the asking. High school sophomores and juniors at the New York City Lab School on 17th Street are looking for interesting, worthwhile ways to fulfill their Community Service requirements. Call Lab School Guidance counselor **Ed Grassel** at 212- 691-6201 for details, or fax to 212-691-6219, attention Ed Grassel, Community Service, and give your group's name, contact person and phone number, date and times when help will be needed, type of work, # of students needed, any other useful details.

The GVBA has a beginning web site. Text of letters, newsletter excerpts can be found at http://hometown.aol.com/merzdoat/myhomepage/newyork.html - We intend to publish excerpts from the GVBA News, from block association newsletters, full text of GVBA letters, etc .

Bylined articles express the opinion of the author, not necessarily a GVBA position .
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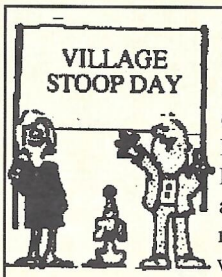

In 1999, the GVBA initiated **Village Stoop Day**, which is celebrated on the Saturday before Memorial Day Week-End. Using "the stoop" as a symbol, it recognizes the neighborliness which distinguishes Greenwich Village. Residents are encouraged to spend some time getting to know each other better and celebrating their community. The first Stoop Day was also intended as a way for Villagers to get to know their beat cops.

In the aftermath of September 11th, our community and the support we offer to each other has become even more significant. The original stoops of the Netherlands were designed to keep ever encroaching flood waters at bay.....to fend off disaster. Ironically, the original metaphor has been painfully enhanced. Mental health experts tell us that the long term emotional effects of that tragic day for those of us who witnessed the disaster or suffered personal losses are yet unknown, but we do know how important we are to each other and how vital our sense of community is towards our eventual emotional healing. In a renewed commitment to the spirit of Greenwich Village, celebrate this year's Village Stoop Day on **May 18th** even if it's by saying hello to someone you never spoke to before.

GVBA DISCOUNT ON ACCLAIMED VILLAGE WATERFRONT BOOK

Advanced copies of *Maritime Mile: The Story of the Greenwich Village Waterfront* by **Stuart Waldman**, photos by **Zack Winestine** will be available at a special discounted price to *GVBA News* readers. The book, hailed by **Jane Jacobs** and **Mike Wallace** (Pulitzer prize, Gotham), tells the fascinating story of one of the world's most important waterfronts: ours! It makes a powerful case for the designation of the Greenwich Village waterfront as a Historic District. The book will sell in stores in September for $29.95.

For a limited time you can buy *Maritime Mile* for $23 ($20 plus $3 shipping and handling). Make checks out to Greenwich Village Community Task Force (GVCTF) and mail with your name and mailing address to Livvie Mann, 12 Bedford Street, NYC 10014. Questions? Info? wald12mann@aol.com. ALL proceeds are much needed and will be used immediately to further the effort to landmark the waterfront.

NOT ONLY THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN WHO SIT IN WASHINGTON SQUARE, but the tired and lonely old men who live in Bleecker Street's Mills Hotel, are the next victims of New York University's taking over of Greenwich Village. NYU has now acquired the Mills Hotel, which will be converted into a students' dormitory - from Caricature - Greenwich Village's Feature Newspaper - September, 1948